

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-25

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O P 191125Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2137

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MBABANE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 2606

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TZ, KE, UG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT NYERERE ON KENYA-UGANDA QUARREL

1. SUMMARY. NYERERE DENOUNCES UGANDAN PRESIDENT AMIN BUT CALLS ON FOREIGN POWERS TO STAY OUT OF CURRENT KENYA-UGANDA QUARREL. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT NYERERE CALLED ME TO HIS HOUSE SUNDAY, JULY 18, FOR FORTY-FIVE MINUTES OF WHAT HE CALLED "HISTORICAL GOSSIP AND A PLEA ON BEHALF OF ALL EAST AFRICA." NYERERE BEGAN BY SAYING HE WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR WHAT HE THOUGHT OF UGANDA PRESIDENT AMIN: "THE FELLOW IS A CROOK AND A MURDERER." NYERERE HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT SO AND STILL DID.

3. NYERERE REVIEWED AMIN'S OVERTHROW OF OBOTE AND EXPLAINED WHY HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT AT THE TIME.

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TANZANIA WAS QUARRELING WITH THE BRITISH OVER THEIR SALE OF

ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA. HEATH HAD ABUSED NYERERE AT CHEQUERS. HEATH HAD BEEN SO NASTY TO KAUNDA THAT LATTER HAD WALKED OUT OF MEETING WITH HIM. NYERERE AND KAUNDA HAD IN TURN "PUT HEATH IN DOCK" AT SINGAPORE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE. THERE WAS MUCH BITTERNESS.

4. UK, THEREFORE, WAS PLEASED WITH AMIN COUP AND SUPPORTED HIM. SO DID ISRAEL WHICH THOUGHT IT HAD A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH AMIN AND WANTED TO PIN DOWN SUDANESE TROOPS IN SOUTH. SO DID KENYA WHO WAS GETTING A LITTLE TIRED OF BEING ONE AGAINST TWO (OBOTE AND NYERERE) IN EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY. WHEN OAU CHOSE KAMPALA AS MEETING SITE, IT "GAVE THIS CROOK CONTINENTAL RESPECTABILITY."

5. NYERERE TOOK A CERTAIN WRY AMUSEMENT FROM FACT THAT UK, ISRAEL, AND KENYA ARE NOW AMIN'S CHIEF ENEMIES. HE COULD UNDERSTAND KENYA'S MAKING A BIG THING OF THE UGANDAN THREAT. "JOMO NEEDS A LITTLE EXTERNAL TROUBLE TO REINFORCE INTERNAL UNITY RIGHT NOW AND AN EXTERNAL FOOL ALWAYS HELPS IN SUCH A CASE." (NYERERE ADDED: "WE ALL DO IT SOMETIMES.")

6. NYERERE SAID HE WAS GOING INTO ALL THIS BECAUSE HE WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR HOW HE FEELS ABOUT AMIN, SO THAT HIS MAIN POINT WOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. THAT WAS THAT NEITHER KENYA NOR ANYONE ELSE IN EAST AFRICA HAD ANY REAL REASON TO FEAR AMIN. KENYA HAS THE POWER TO TAKE CARE OF ITSELF. SO DOES TANZANIA. THEY COULD HANDLE ANY NONSENSE AMIN STARTED -- AND HE WASN'T REALLY GOING TO START ANYTHING.

7. WHAT NYERERE WANTED TO PLEAD FOR WAS THAT NO OUTSIDERS GET INVOLVED. HE WAS A "LITTLE WORRIED", NOT ABOUT WHAT THE US MIGHT DO, BUT ABOUT HOW ITS ACTIONS APPEARED: PRESS EMPHASIS OF F-5 SALE AS BALANCING SOVIET MILITARY SUPPORT FOR UGANDA AND SOMALIA, SECRETARY RUMSFELD'S VISIT TO NAIROBI, US PLANE FROM DIEGO GARCIA IN KENYA AND FRIGATE IN MOMBASA, 7TH FLEET TASK FORCE IN INDIAN OCEAN. NYERERE WOULD LIKE US AND UK TO HELP KENYA IN ALL RESPECTS OTHER THAN TO SUPPORT IT MILITARILY AGAINST UGANDA. "LEAVE THIS QUARREL TO EAST AFRICA. WE WILL TAKE CARE OF IT."

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8. NYERERE WAS TELLING ME ALL THIS ON SUNDAY BECAUSE FOREIGN MINISTER KADUMA WOULD BE CALLING IN OTHER AMBASSADORS BEGINNING MONDAY TO MAKE SAME POINTS. KADUMA WAS SPECIFICALLY GOING TO ASK SOVIET AMBASSADOR WHOM USSR WAS ARMING UGANDA AGAINST, AS NYERERE HAD ASKED SOVIETS SAME QUESTION WHEN AMIN HAD BEGUN GET MIGS. (SOVIETS HAD SAID, "IMPERIALISTS". NYERERE HAD REPLIED, "NONSENSE".) NYERERE KNEW THAT WHEN MIGS FIRST ARRIVED IN KAMPALA, MAIN HAD ASKED SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN KAMPALA WHETHER

THEY COULD REACH AS FAR AS DAR ES SALAAM. TANZANIA WAS GOING TO REMIND SOVIET AMBASSADOR HERE OF THAT AGAIN.

9. BUT FACT WAS NYERERE WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT UGANDAN MILITARY POWER. KENYA HAD NO REASON TO BE EITHER. WOULD FOREIGN POWERS PLEASE STAY OUT AND WOULD US DO WAHT IT COULD TOWARD THIS END -- ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME WHEN MORE IMPORTANT THINGS ARE GOING ON IN AFRICA? EXCEPT FOR UGANDA AT THE MOMENT, SAID NYERERE, EAST AFRICA IS REASONABLY STABLE. ALL IT WANTS IS TO BE LEFT ALONE TO GROW TOMATOES AND MAYBE A FEW MANGOES. IT DOESN'T NEED FOREIGN ARMS.

10. I SAID I WOULD REPORT PRESIDENT'S VIEWS. I PERSONALLY THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS SOME DANGER OF AN OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE BETWEEN UGANDA AND KENYA, AND THIS IN ITSELF WOULD BE A DIS-TRACTION FROM MORE IMPORTANT THINGS GOING ON ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA. HOWEVER, I AGREED THAT THERE WAS PROBABLY NO GREAT DANGER OF AMIN'S GOBBLING UP EAST AFRICA, AND I WAS SURE LAST THING US WANTED TO DO WAS GET INVOLVED IN REGIONAL QUARREL OF THIS KIND. GOVERNOR SCRANTON HAD REASSURED NYERERE ON HIS EARLIER DOUBTS ABOUT PRESS TREATMENT OF SECRETARY RUMSFELD'S VISIT TO AFRICA (NYERERE NODDED), BUT I THOUGHT TANZANIAN PRESS WAS STILL CONTRIBUTING TO VERY IMAGE PRESIDENT WAS BEMOANING BY MISLEADING ARTICLES ABOUT US PLANE AND FRIGATE IN MOMBASA, ETC. (NYERERE MADE A NOTE.) HE CONCLUDED BY REPEATING THAT HE WANTED US TO KNOW WHAT HE THOUGH ON THIS SUBJECT AND WHY.

11. COMMENT: NYERERE HAS ALWAYS REACTED STRONGLY TO IDEA OF GREAT POWERS TRYING TO "BALANCE" EACH OTHER IN AFRICA. HE PROBABLY HAS SOME RESIDUAL DOUBTS ABOUT US SECURITY AID TO KENYA AND ZAIRE. BUT MAIN TARGET OF TANGOV DEMARCHES MAY BE USSR AND EVEN UK, BOTH OF WHICH HE MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES DURING CONVERSATION. THUS, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO OUR

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PURPOSES HERE THAT THE USG OFFER A "NON-INVOLVEMENT" STATEMENT ON THE UGANDA-KENYA QUARREL. HOWEVER, SHOULD WE IN FACT FEEL THAT SUCH A POLICY SERVES OUR OVERALL INTERESTS, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO BE ABLE TO PASS IT TO NYERERE.

SPAIN

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NNN

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